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Reply under 37 CFR 1.116 - Expedited Procedure  
Technology Center 3700

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E 3726  
2-25-03  
18/D  
NEJ

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: MEIER et al

Serial No.: 09/529,383

Filed: April 13, 2000

For: Method For Increasing The Wear Resistance Of A  
Work Piece

Group: 3726

Examiner: Nguyen, T.

**RECEIVED**  
FEB 24 2003  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION**  
**UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116**

Assistant Commissioner  
For Patents  
Box AF  
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 19, 2003

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed November 19, 2002, please  
amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject  
matter therein.

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

2. (Amended) Method according to claim 5, characterized in that the  
work-piece material is steel or non-ferrous metal.

3. (Twice Amended) Method according to claim 5, characterised in that